Serena Watson's

Notes – No IV.

Lolo Trip. – Aug. 16th to

Sept. 10th, 1880.

Watson
N-(12)

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THE GIFT OF
The Misses Watson of Northhampton
(nieces of Dr. Sereno Watson)
April 28, 1924.

Watson N-12

Monday - August 16th.

To Fort Missoula and arrange for A tent and procure an cavalry overcoat. Compare aneroid again with standard barometer at Signal station.

Station barometer corrected	26.715
" aneroid	26.55
My aneroid	26.43

Back to dinner. Plummer to have pack ready tomorrow morning, my purpose being to cross by the Lolo trail (10 miles south of Fort Missoula) over into Idaho, comparing the timber on both sides of the Bitter root range, and returning by a reported trail farther north coming into Missoula valley by Moose Creek, or farther south by the Elk City trail coming into Bitterroot valley - the

trip to take probably ten or fifteen days, and provision made accordingly. Distance 200 or 300 miles.

Tuesday – August 17th

Left started at ~~11th~~ 10 a.m. for Lolo Pass, stopping at the fork for the test — Mr. Harding as packer, a rather rough customer. Up the lower canon of the Lolo, camping at a deserted cabin in a meadow at 3 P.M., making about 20 miles Timber as usual scattered pinus ponderosa and Douglas' Spruce. Lolo Peak nearly opposite camp, which I propose ascending tomorrow. Climb steep hill above camp (1300 feet) and examine approaches to the peak, choosing route for ascent. Camp is in the mouth of the side canon by which the Nez Perces flanked Capt. Rhodes in the Indian war of 1877. His log breastwork and rifle pits still standing in the canon 2 or 3 miles below.

Wednesday – August 15th

Start at 7 a.m. for peak, crossing the creek on horseback, then leaving the horses, working my way through the tangled bottom, with much down timber, and wading a fork of the creek. Then up the ridge through P. ponderosa, followed by Douglas' spruce and P. contorta, with dense alder growth in swampy spots, and an abundance of fallen timber, especially of P. contorta. Timber all small and much burned over, very dense where young. Climbing exceedingly steep and at 1½ P.M., at an altitude of 7000 ft., am completely tired out. Peak still 1000 feet above and difficult of access – to be more easily reached probably from the eastern or southern side. Due on Shasta.

berries and turn back with frequent rests, at length getting to the bottom, make the two creeks and reach camp at 6 P.M. exceedingly used up. My first experience in climbing through fallen timber, which abounds in all these densely wooded mountains, the result mainly of fires and violent winds. The Indians are said to have been in the habit of burning the forests for the sake of concentrating the game & facilitating its capture. Large areas of mountain slopes have evidently been cleared by this means and are now more or less covered by a young growth.

Thursday - August 19th.

The canon narrows soon after starting and the trail leaving the stream takes to the ridges. Some timber in the bottoms and patches, and some large Douglas spruce. Come to a grassy patch at noon and bait horses. Trail continues very rough up and down the ridges, descending at length to the "warm springs" in a broad grassy meadow upon the creek. Temperature 110°. Altitude 4150 feet. Granite commences here and continues westward. Signs of moose and deer frequent. Indications of Indians about the springs.

About 30 miles

Friday August 20th

Rain still following the ridges, ascending for about 10 miles and at length comes down on water running southerly at 5400 feet altitude, with alders in bloom and trees. Have left P. ponderosa and come upon "balsam" (abies pine? and Pinus Engelmanni?, also young trees of a Picea with rough bark and a Thuja with small thin foliage like the eastern species. Tsuga and Douglas spruce seen more rarely and occasionally. At noon come to a creek on which is a small yew and "cedar", Thuja gigantea. Soon leave the creek finally and take to the high ridges which we follow for several days. They are largely covered with "pine grass" (Xerophyllum)

[illegible] [illegible] was [illegible], and grass or grazing of any kind is very scarce and scanty. Camp without grass among mountain tops (altitude 6100), after following along a northern slope without timber but densely covered with alder, elder, mountain ash, and other bushes, with frequent bear signs. The timber on the ridges is all small. My horse loses both hind shoes today.

Wednesday, September 21.

Some [illegible] on dry ridges above 5000 ft. [illegible] 6000 feet or [illegible] 7000 feet. Timber oak, small and scattered, Abies and Pinus, with pinus contorta and P. [illegible]? — The latter with smooth bark and leaves in 3s or 4s, occasionally in pairs, but the P. contorta has higher colored and coarser bark, leaves in pairs. Today a single imperfect cone of the P. [illegible] was found. P. contorta usually fruits freely and its cones are persistent. Come to a parks with several ridges, probably a mile wide, at 5 P.M. Trail very good and we are unable to follow it. Pitch camp at 7 P.M. on the summit among several ridges and trees, at altitude of 7300 feet. Melt snow for water.

Monday, August 22

No dew in the morning. Very smoky. Start at 5 a.m. and at length (finally) the trail travels all day over ridges wooded as yesterday, the trail scarcely getting below 6000 feet alt. The pines till night when we come to a [illegible] with [illegible] grass and a small spring. Altitude about 6,100 feet.

up river and after a time returns with the horses. In settlement they claim nine dollars, and Capt. Ilsley coming back says that was the agreement — but they do not get it. The river has the reputation of being as sharp in a bargain as a Jew, unlike the Mussulmans and Hindus. Finally a fair breeze at 11 A.M. and take to the ship, the Jews mostly P. Europiani and A. Arabs, rarely ever on foot in Asia Minor, with undoubtedly of vaccinia on body & face & in bottom, very frequent in these mountains on the northern slopes & often spreading all over standing. Snows slight frequent and no power. After 2 P.M. have a dense snow storm at 6 000 feet, snow hail, and tornado and Tempest appear suspicion and the Pt. of Imaret is Imaret Bukasan. Jews gone. Very low from Asia Minor, reach valley

2 feet through, the balsam one of the finest. Rain again & over 6000 ft up and pack on till late for grass, camping with almost none and rain coming on. Get up tents but cook supper in the rain. Dismal evening with considerable rain in the night, not to keep dry and comfortable.

The tamarack is often much enlarged near the base with very thick bark (6 inches or more) and heaving fissured, much like Douglas spruce. Pinus monticola ("white Pine") was frequent today upon our ridge route.

Two species of pinus.

are forming this coast, & being occasionally
Pinus ponderosa & P. contorta, & being as a rule.
Solitary specimens of P. contorta in this area
are 18 inches in diameter & 70 feet high,
usually larger. P. [illegible] 6 feet high or
more. P. [illegible] 3 to 4 feet high.

Thursday September

7 [illegible] meadow [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible], [illegible]
bait the horses and cut service
berries, which are very abundant
and large. At Empire reach cattle
and signs of inhabitants, a mown
meadow, [illegible] [illegible]
a small [illegible] house and ranch. Hear
of a possible blacksmith six miles
[illegible]. The trail here comes
[illegible], passing through a park like
[illegible] of large P. ponderosa & Douglas
[illegible]. Reach Antelope ranch at
P. M., a fine [illegible] with [illegible]
[illegible], [illegible] and [illegible]
[illegible], [illegible]. Land
all cleared, 13 large fine fields and three
[illegible] [illegible]. Corn [illegible]
for the horses, meals for ourselves,
[illegible] [illegible].

Friday - August 2nd

[illegible] 7 miles, [illegible] and take the [illegible] to the [illegible] to [illegible] - this camp [illegible] being on [illegible], 20 miles to the South, at the [illegible], 40 miles west, and [illegible] 40 miles south of Louisiana, with a chance of [illegible] to the east to [illegible].

This necessitates our returning by the use of spokane and the [illegible] roads, the horses being in no condition to stand [illegible] any of the roads.

[illegible] a pretty [illegible] with scattered trees and D. Spruce, old growth, with some pica pungens and the fine balsams in the wetter places. Reached at length about 1000 feet

[illegible] Lobo. [illegible]

[illegible] Dorr, crossing [illegible]

[illegible] in a canoe, swimming [illegible]

[illegible] numerous Viburnums, with black [illegible]

with yellowish berries, the latter with [illegible]

[illegible] with bipinnate fruits [illegible]

another with small leaves & more oval [illegible]

[illegible] Lobo. [illegible] over the [illegible]

swamps. Camp Lobo on hillside [illegible]

[illegible] Pines scarce. Small Yellow Warbler,

[illegible] Scattered

P. ponderosa everywhere.

Wednesday August 25th

Light rain in night & till noon to rain
soon after starting, at length raining &
blowing hard. Stop in the shelter of some
thorn woods by a little stream on the
Hampshire, walk & turn the horses
to graze, & water a pint. After noon
the hills grow more and more barren
again, & soon on leaving off with wet
mountains. Follow along the heavy
cliff and afterwards come down to
the river bank, where we stop early,
on account of time, and some bushes
of shrubs. Stop near Park at an Inn's
house, at which lay for the horses. Rain
here all the night, with heavy
showers at intervals. Inn's men
singing and praying.

The [illegible] country [illegible] the Palouse is rich land, rolling, with [illegible] water or timber, but with occasional springs, & with some pine timber in the valleys. The land is being rapidly taken up and [illegible] in [illegible], the cattle [illegible] with [illegible] is [illegible] necessary in Idaho as it is in Montana.

Still seven miles to the mouth of the Pecatonica and we save several miles by taking a shorter trail over the ridge, coming down by a very steep trail and grade into the valley, about 1500 feet. A young German at a ranch reports six miles to Prescott & we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ride over the plateau by a circuitous route till nearly dark, at length a mile, a creek & following it up to a camping place & spring by the roadside with fair grass & good wood. Begins to rain at bed time.

Sunday - August - 30th

Considerable rain in the night
but keep dry. Two miles into moss
and over a rolling road & fields
country - some pine timber on the
higher ridges - stones, rock and flint fields,
the soil black & rich, loam mostly.
Reach river at 10'/_. put horses
in shade, and get dinner & rest
hour still raining, start
about one after dinner and
make Palouse 15 miles, at 4.-0 -
roads very slippery.

Reimporia Work & prairies with
some timber. Town built on the
north slope of the Valley, 2 hotels
2 banks in the same block.

A rich agricultural and grain country, and
growing fine wheat, oats, &c. Dinner in the
mountains west, about 12 miles off.

Thursday – Sept. 2nd.

Horses took his first class yesterday & is very stiff this morning. Spoke [illegible] to the factory (7½ miles) through the open country and then it was to Fort Dearborn. It was, [illegible] through a fine pine timber with occasional beautiful openings. In my walk up this part, there is some fine timber.

See quarter-master & arrange for driving horses.

Friday, Sept. 3rd

of the work. Below in the dark, where the lower limbs the rest of the work with the fire or provisions the daylight.

In the centre is a raised platform of bamboo, [illegible], etc. — The platform is [illegible] by [illegible] with [illegible] or less crack, the fire [illegible] of [illegible] upon.

Saturday, Sept. 4th

Started at 4½ and made the mission at 7, passing through a cedar swamp with many large trees 4 to 5 feet in diameter. Stop at the mission not long to [illegible] or rest the horses. [illegible] partly in swamp [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible], Trail is [illegible] [illegible], with large [illegible]. [illegible] in the [illegible] 6 inches through, also one 11' through & 60 feet high.

Sides of the canyon [illegible] sloped [illegible] prairie [illegible] with scattered trees — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Some of the horses missing in morning & do not start till 9.30. Cross the creek 27 times before reaching base of mountain. Much fine timber in the bottoms, mostly cedar; the hillsides burned over & nearly bare. At [illegible] Prairie hunt for grass for the horses & cattle have left none. After 2 miles of steep grade cross the summit at 5 P.M. and go down about 5 miles passing through a large drove of cattle. Mountain well timbered, the cedar ceasing below the summit & not reappearing on the eastern side. Pine, spruce & the [illegible] spruce come in again. Camp at [illegible] and are visited by some of the cattle drove which is a nuisance all night. No grass for horses & feed oats which we have packed from the Mission.

Road from the summit pass down the canyon of the [illegible]. This is the way, [illegible] it [illegible], [illegible]

Tuesday – Sept. 7th

Start at 7.00, passing the castle

[illegible]

1–1½ [illegible], P. [illegible], [illegible],
0.5 [illegible] the pinnae of the two pin. The
P. [illegible] the lower [illegible] pinnae as
[illegible] the other [illegible] 4 or 5 pairs
of [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] specimen of [illegible] about
150 [illegible] high. Finding no [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] for the [illegible]
the [illegible], the [illegible] of the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] at 10.45 [illegible] [illegible]
road. [illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible].
[illegible], [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible].

Of [illegible], there is [illegible] the [illegible]
or [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible].

Friday – Sept. 10th

Leave the park to be sent to Missoula by stage. Plenty of red chokecherries in the bottoms & some Prunus demissa, the first time seen in fruit. To Fromchtown at 10.30 and to Missoula at 3 P. M. The Missoula valley widens out at Fromchtown & is without trees except along the river, the mountains at south mostly well covered with small trees, Inquire at Fromchtown for the man who had promised specimens of birch, alder and thorn, but do not find him. At Missoula learn that the woods had not been cut down.

Find mail & remittance.

Make up packages of plants collected on the Jocko trip & send them off.